

BUILDINGS

# Some Tarkiln work will be pane-less

Local restorer to  
repair windows on  
historic building

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For something that Tarkiln Committee Chairman Tag Carpenter called "a small step in a series of small steps," an offer by a Hingham window restorer looks like a pretty big deal.

Linda Kucera, who specializes in historic window preservation, offered to restore the 5 windows on the south hall. According to Carpenter, that's \$16,000 worth of work she's donating.

Kucera went to the open house held at the former one-room schoolhouse last fall and noted the windows were "in real shoddy condition."

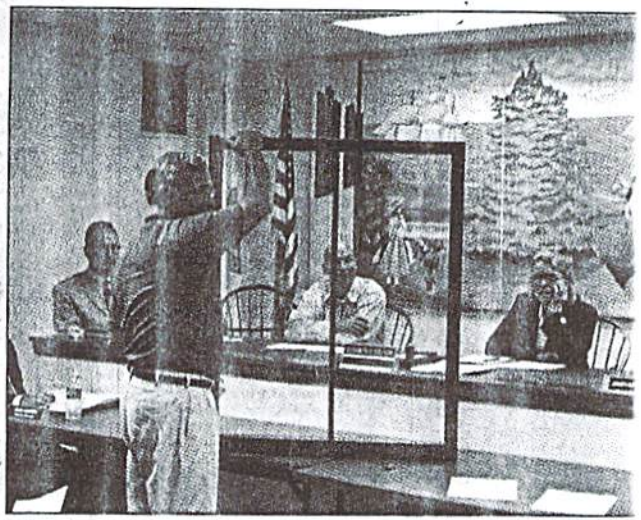
Kucera did one window to show what she can do, which was presented to selectmen on Monday.

Carpenter told the board that the dimensions of the windows, which are 39 inches tall, make restoring them "particularly challenging."

The buildings remaining windows, he said, are newer and in good shape.

The windows are "almost irreplaceable" said Kucera. She did the first windows she explained, to show why the committee needed someone with her

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STAFF PHOTO/MATTHEW NADLER

Selectmen got a look at how the windows at the Tarkiln building will look after restoration.

## Hingham window restorer to fix some windows on Tarkiln building

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expertise, rather than simply going to a standard window company. "A window of that age will outlast any new window," said Kucera, who added that the technology hasn't improved very much of the years. "I'll go to the bank that my windows will outlast" any new windows on the building.

While the windows are being repaired, the rest of the project is moving forward, Carpenter told the board. The contract for the roof replacement will be awarded in "about a week" he said. Some of those proposals have come in below the original estimate he said.

They will also be accepting proposals for the septic system in the near future, though that work won't start until the farmers market ends for the season.

Once those projects are awarded, carpenter told selectmen, the committee would know how much of the \$435,000 it received from town meeting would remain to do other parts of the restoration.

The Tarkiln Building was erected in 1871 as a one-room schoolhouse, and has been a community center since a new elementary school was built in the 1950s. Selectmen have been in charge of the town-owned building since Town Meeting in 2006, and the building had to be shut down Nov. 1 of that year when a transformer on a power line exploded, blowing out the furnace.

Last fall, the Massachusetts Most Endangered Historic Resources Program, a division of Preservation Massachusetts, named the building as one of five endangered historic resources in the state.

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